



September 4, 2013

Chair Francoise Carrier
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

Re: Facility Plan for the Chevy Chase Open Space Urban Park

Dear Chair Carrier and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Chevy Chase Open Space Committee, I am writing to express the Committee's strong support for the Facility Plan for the Chevy Chase Open Space Urban Park. As you know, the Board of Managers created our Committee in July 2011, and since then it has worked closely with the Parks Department on the design and development of the park.

The result is this Facility Plan. The Plan faithfully captures the important features first set out in the Concept Plan—the two winding, ADA compliant paths; the lighting of the paths with globe lamp posts; and the location of future amenities, including, but not limited to, a natural play area, an open fence along Western Avenue, a picnic area with moveable tables and chairs, a water feature, and a sundial. Other future amenities may include a meditation maze and enhanced gardens. Of course, the park will also include numerous benches from which to admire the lovely vistas and landscaping—so rare in a highly urbanized area like Friendship Heights.

The Facility Plan is simple and aimed at meeting the goals of the Concept Plan—creating a **nature-based green space park—a tranquil, garden-like open space** that enhances the beauty of the natural contours of the land while **increasing connectivity and offering a range of amenities to maximize usage for the thousands of people who live and work in the area.**

The Facility Plan not only faithfully realizes the goals of the Concept Plan, but also the need to be frugal in today's world of constricted budgets for both partners. As a result, the Plan does not include any unnecessary add-ons, and features that may be expensive will be done at later stages in the project, and hopefully through private donations to the park.

Finally, the Committee fully supports the name "Western Grove" for the park. Western Avenue and Grove Street are, respectively, the southern and northern boundaries of the park, and, in our view, the name aptly describes the tree-filled green open space that deserves a permanent name.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meredith Wellington
Chair, Chevy Chase Open Space Committee

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

5906 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Phone (301) 654-7300

Fax (301) 907-9721

ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov
www.chevychasevillagemd.gov

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